

Banff National Park is a jewel in Nature's chest of treasures.

Banff National Park is a whole lot of things. It offers city dwellers fresh air, rest for the eyes, peace for the soul. Its solitude entices hikers. Peaks challenge climbers. Its slopes tempt skiers.

Put together, Banff National Park offers the visitor an enriching, enjoyable and educational experience in an environment where Mother Nature is queen and man is her well-meaning servant.

More than two million visitors a year from around the globe pay homage to Banff's beauty. They come seeking relaxation and pleasure in a natural setting dominated by craggy peaks, deep canyons and thick forests. Wild life roaming the valleys and high ground are protected by law from man the predator for man the observant visitor.

Banff National Park has been preserved for you. It is yours to enjoy. And it is your obligation to hand it down unimpaired to future generations. So please leave the plants, flowers and animals as they are for the enjoyment of those who follow you. Take only memories from this park, the birthplace of Canada's national parks system.

### History

A few million years ago the park area was an inland sea and later became a desert where little lived. The Rocky Mountains evolved as a result of millions of years accumulation of sand, rock and organic remains on those inland seas. About 75 million years ago, the earth's forces broke the rock and thrust it upwards. Glaciers - miles wide - then advanced and retreated at least four times in the lower valleys, grinding and forming the U-shaped valleys, thereby sharpening and steepening the peaks. The Columbia Icefield, 78 miles north of famous Lake Louise, is a remnant of the last great advance.



The park's modern history begins with the discovery of hot springs at the base of Sulphur Mountain during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Two businessmen had occupied the springs and were charging admission. However, a dispute arose over ownership and this led to the federal government's takeover of the springs in 1885 and the creation of a 10-square-mile reserve around them. Over the years the park has grown to its present size of 2,564 square miles. Banff is beautiful and big!



**Flora and fauna**  
Dense stands of lodgepole pine, white spruce and occasionally Douglas fir cover the lower slopes; alpine fir and Engelmann spruce replace them higher up. At about 7,000 feet a semi-arctic climate produces stunted, wind-twisted vegetation. The short growing season this high in the mountains allows many small and colourful alpine flowers to thrive.

**Animals**

The black bear may be seen by park visitors as it forages for food in open meadows or on mountain slopes. Some are shameless panhandlers too along the highways. They should be viewed but not fed! All bears are dangerous and should be left alone. Park regulations forbid feeding or molesting them. The grizzly bear normally inhabits the more remote regions of the park.

Mountain goat and bighorn sheep prefer the higher slopes. Cougars and occasionally the very scarce wolf stalk the elk, deer and moose in the forest meadows and valley bottoms where live the coyote, lynx and martens.

Cattle ranchers fly the high peaks and ridges to sweep areas to the gray rye, nutcracker, maple and other birds. Thrushes, warblers and woodpeckers are other citizens of the forests.

**What to do in Banff National Park**

The park is never closed but some visitor services are of a seasonal nature.

**Hiking** – More than 700 miles of trails exist for hiking and walking and they spread to all areas of the park. Printed guides and maps may be obtained at park information centres and for the more difficult ski mountain climbers and overnight hikers are required to register with the warden service or at information centres before and after every trip. A self-registration system operates at the start of some trails. Permits for the use of alpine huts and shelters in remote areas of the park must be obtained from the warden offices at Banff or Lake Louise. Back-country camping is restricted to designated areas.

**Skiing** – Banff National Park facilities offer some of the best skiing in Canada from mid-November to late April. Registration is mandatory for skiers who intend touring on other than marked cross-country ski trails.

**Fishing** – Experienced anglers will discover many varieties of game fish in many of the park's 400 lakes, ponds and rivers. Park information centres sell the necessary National Park angling licences and the staff will indicate good fishing areas. Motor boats are allowed only on Lake Minnewanka. Firewood is available for purchase in the park's firewood shed. Outdoor portable stoves may be used. Barbecues are allowed in campground or picnic areas; used coals should be placed in existing park fireplaces. When hiking, visitors must get fire permits for open fires to be made outside the primitive campsites. Of course, unattended fires should be extinguished; if uncontrollable they should be reported immediately.

Swimming pools, hot and boat tours, riding stables, sightseeing gondola lifts and a golf course have also been provided in the park. Mineral hot springs are also available.

**Where to stay**

A number of campgrounds have been designated in the park. These are operated on a first-come, first-served basis. At the campground sites, a small daily use fee is charged. The maximum allowable stay at any park campground is two weeks, unless stated otherwise. Semi-serviced winter camping is located at Tunnel Mountain, Lake Louise and Mosquito Creek from mid-October to May 1.

Except for overnight trail trips, all campers must stay in designated campgrounds. By doing so they will be able to enjoy the amenities provided — picnic tables, washrooms, running water, interpretive theatre programs, trail starts — and conserve the land and its usually fragile ground cover. For the convenience of commercial visitor accommodation is available in or near the Banff townsites and at Lake Louise.

**For your information**

More detailed information on the park may be obtained from uniformed park staff at information centres in Banff townsites and at Lake Louise. Special events are posted on park bulletin boards. For additional information please contact The Superintendent, Banff National Park, Banff, Alberta, T0L 0C0.

 Indian and Northern Affairs    Affaires indiennes et du Nord  
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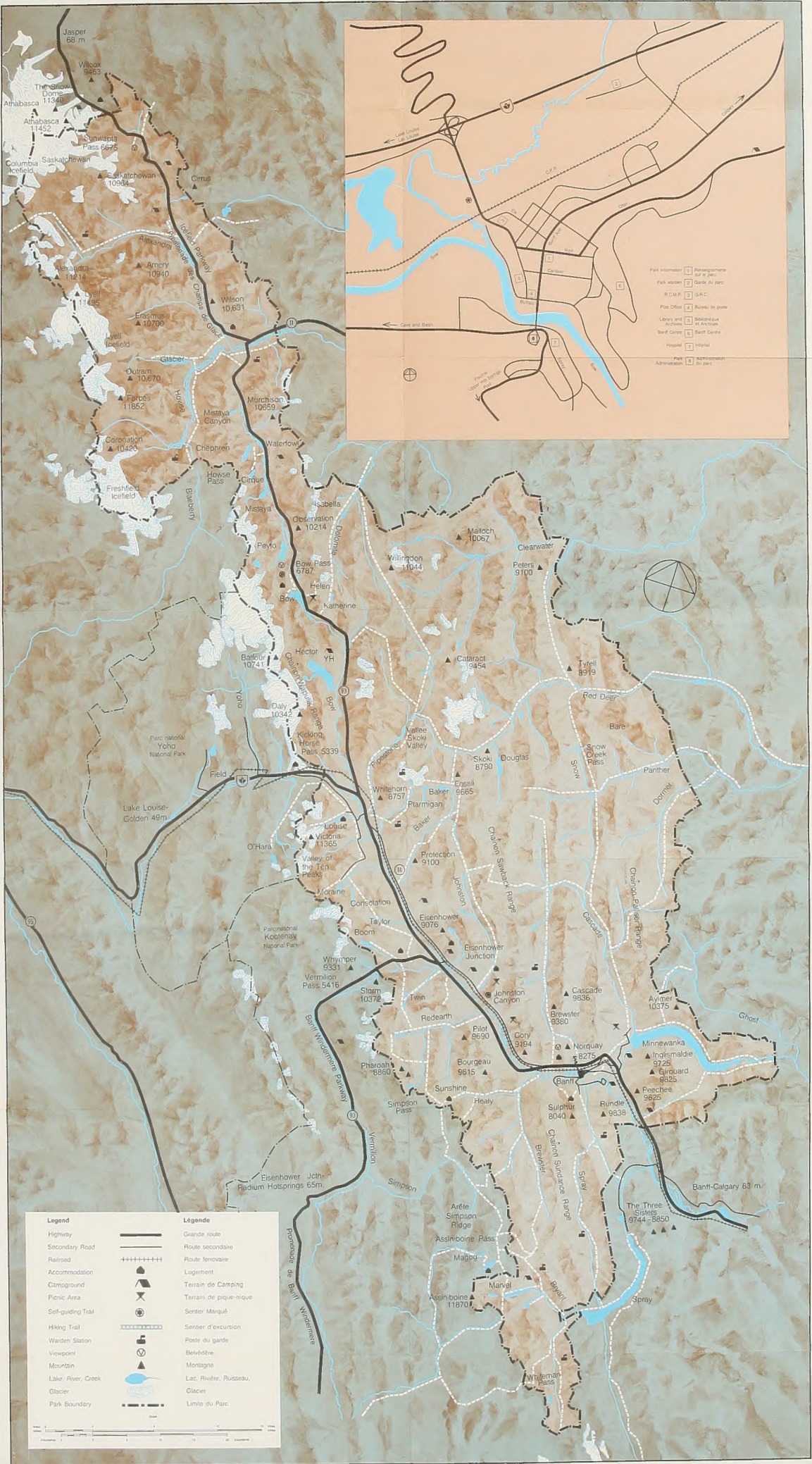
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Les feux — Les feux de camp ne devaient être allumés que dans les forêts fourrés. Des poêles portatifs étaient dans les tentes de pique-nique et de camping on peut se servir de barbecues mis en bois déposés les cendres dans les jours du camp. Les visiteurs devaient se procurer des permis pour allumer des feux en dehors des emplacements de camping pour empêcher les feux de se propager dans les forêts. On ne peut d'essayer d'allumer les feux non-sûr — sinon, arrêteriez immédiatement en em-  
ployé du parc.  
La raquette, les excursions en raquettes et en bateau, l'équitation et le golf sont quelques-unes des activités aux-  
quelles les visiteurs peuvent participer. On peut aussi se baigner dans les sources thermales.

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**Legend**

Highway

Secondary Road

Railroad

Accommodation

Campground

Picnic Area

Self-guiding Trail

Hiking Trail

Warden Station

Viewpoint

Mountain

Lake, River, Creek

Glacier

Park Boundary

Grande route

Route secondaire

Route ferroviaire

Logement

Terrain de Camping

Terrain de pique-nique

Sentier Marqué

Sentier d'excursion

Poste du garde

Belvédère

Montagne

Lac, Rivière, Puits-deau

Glacier

Limite du Parc

0 5 10 15 20 Kilomètres

0 5 10 15 20 Miles

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